

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1a, 1b, and 1c is being presented as a new formal drawing sheet to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet. Figure 1c has been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked to show the changes presented in the replacement sheet.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 1c are two occurrences of reference numeral 14, the single occurrence of reference numeral 15, and their respective leader lines have been deleted.

REMARKS

The Office Action has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 18, and 20-21 are amended. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-21 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Priority

Applicants respectfully request acknowledgment of the claim of foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 and of the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next communication. Such a claim of foreign priority has been made in the Declaration filed on March 28, 2006. Also, a certified copy of the priority document 0322902.8 was filed on March 28, 2006, and is posted on the PTO's Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the reference numerals 14 and 15 are not mentioned in the written description. Figure 1c has been amended to remove these reference numerals. For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim objections

Claims 1-4, 7, 10-11 and 21 are objected to. According to paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the claims are objected to because they recite "operable for;" however, they do not recite this phrase. Applicant's representative, Mr. Matthew Kremer (Reg. No. 58,671), called the Examiner for clarification on February 20, 2008, in which the Examiner stated that claims 1-4, 7, 10-11, and 21 are objected to because these claims all recite the phrase "capable of," which should be replaced with "operable for." Claims 1-4, 10-11 and 21 have been amended to replace the phrase "capable of" with the phrase "operable for," as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 7 has been canceled, which renders the objection of this claim moot. For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Prior art rejections

Claims 1, 3-6, 10-16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication 2003/0067460 ("Tomono"); claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0726482 ("EP'482"); and claims 1 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 03/015424 ("WO'424"). These rejections are traversed because Tomono, EP'482, and WO'424 do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, independent claims 1, 10, and 21 have been amended to include the features of claim 7, which has been indicated to be allowable in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. Thus, claims 1, 10, and 21 are allowable for at least this reason without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

Claims 3-6 and 11-20 depend from and contain all the features of claim 1 or 10, and are allowable for the reasons indicated above, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/21/2008

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